

Docket No. F-7872

Ser. No. 10/603,316

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A locking apparatus having a fingerprint reader, a fingerprint verifier, and a power supply circuit, the fingerprint reader being configured to read a fingerprint, the fingerprint verifier being configured to verify the read fingerprint based on registered fingerprint data, and according to a result of the verification, authenticate a person who entered the fingerprint, the locking apparatus being configured to unlock, if the person is authenticated, a door locked with the locking apparatus, the locking apparatus comprising:

a chamber having an opening and configured to contain the fingerprint reader, the chamber being configured to receive a finger through the opening;

a lid configured to open and close the opening of the chamber, the lid being rotatably supported to rotate inward with respect to said chamber to open the opening of the chamber when urged by insertion of the finger and to allow access to the fingerprint reader by the finger to input the fingerprint; and

a switch provided for the power supply circuit and configured to interlock with the lid so as to turn on and off the power supply circuit in response to the opening and closing of the lid.

Docket No. F-7872

Ser. No. 10/603,316

2. (Currently Amended) The locking apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~[[:]]~~ the lid is made of conductive material and is grounded.

3. (Currently Amended) The locking apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~the chamber is formed in a shape to receive a finger through the opening of the chamber;~~

the fingerprint reader in the chamber ~~[[is]]~~ being oriented toward a finger inserting direction;

~~the lid is so supported as to be opened when pushed toward the inside of the chamber;~~ and

a biasing device biasing the lid is provided with a pusher configured to push the lid toward a position where the lid closes the opening of the chamber.

4. (Currently Amended) The locking apparatus of claim 2, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~the chamber is formed in a shape to receive a finger through the opening of the chamber;~~

Docket No. F-7872

Ser. No. 10/603,316

the fingerprint reader in the chamber ~~[[is]]~~ being oriented toward a finger inserting direction;

~~the lid is so supported as to be opened when pushed toward the inside of the chamber; and~~

a biasing device biasing the lid ~~is provided with a pusher configured to push the lid toward a position where the lid closes the opening of the chamber.~~